

Wardle Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the year ended 31st December, 1938

Dr. DONALD G. MacGILL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ROCHDALE :

JOHN TAYLERSON, PRINTER, 358 HALIFAX RD., SMALLBRIDGE

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Housing Statistics.



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Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—11.3

Still Births :

Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births				....	20
				Total	Males. Females
Deaths	....	....	....	59	36 23
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—13.7					
Deaths from Puerperal causes—					

			Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	Nil		Nil	Nil
Total	....	Nil	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births				....	40
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					44
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				....	Nil
Deaths from Measles, all ages	....			....	Nil
„ Whooping Cough, all ages	....			....	Nil
„ Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age	....			....	Nil
„ Cancer, all ages	...			...	9

ESTIMATED POPULATION mid. 1938 4,305	Per 1,000 of estimated Population			Maternal Mortality			
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuber- culosis of Res- piratory System.	Death Rate from Cancer	Rate		Rate of Death under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births
					Per 1000 Live Births	Total Live and Still Births	
Mean of 5 years— 1933-1937.....	11.5	15.7	0.40	2.09	13.07	11.96	77
Year 1937.....	7.6	18.1	0.46	2.09	30.30	28.57	90
Year 1938.....	11.3	13.7	0.69	2.09	Nil	Nil	40
Increase or decrease in 1938 on 5 years' average 1933-1937.	—0.2	—2.0	+0.29	Nil	—13.07	—11.96	—37
Previous year.....	+3.7	—4.4	+0.23	Nil	—30.30	—28.57	—50

No excessive or unusual mortality occurred during the year which received or requires comment, neither have any causes of sickness or invalidity been specially noteworthy. No occupational or environmental conditions have appeared to have had a prejudicial effect upon health, and there has been no evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

2. General Provision of Health Services.

(i) *Ambulance Facilities.*

(a) Infectious Cases. A motor ambulance for infectious cases is provided by the Littleborough, Milnrow and Wardle Joint Hospital Board.

(b) Non-infectious and Accident Cases. The Rochdale Corporation provide by agreement a motor ambulance for these cases. These ambulance services and the arrangements made for their co-ordination are adequate.

(ii) *Professional Nursing in the Home.*

(a) General Nursing. Arrangements have been made for this nursing to be undertaken by the District Nurse.

(b) Nursing of Infectious Diseases. All arrangements have been made.

(c) Financial assistance. The Council financially assist the local voluntary association, viz., the Wardle Nursing Association, to the extent of £10 per annum.

(iii) *Treatment Centres and Clinics.*

There is in the district a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre operated under the scheme of the Lancashire County Council.

(iv) *Hospitals.*

There is one public hospital in the district; viz., Birch Hill. There are no voluntary hospitals in the district.

(v) *Institutions.*

Institutional provision is available for unmarried mothers and illegitimate infants at the Birch Hill Institution, provided by the Rochdale Corporation, and for homeless children at the Cottage Homes, also provided by the Rochdale Corporation.

(vi) *Health Education.*

No action was taken by the Council during the year in regard to the publication of information or dissemination of knowledge relating to health and disease and the importance of early treatment; and no special effort was made in connection with the National Health Campaign to secure a wider use of the health services.

3. Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Disease.

(i) *Smallpox.*

No cases of smallpox occurred during the year. Hospital accommodation for smallpox is provided by agreement with the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board, at Ainsworth, the total number of beds for the area covered by the Board being 50 . An annual retaining fee of £20 is paid.

(ii) *Other Infectious Diseases.*

Provision for other infectious diseases is available at Bleaked Hill, Smithy Bridge, Littleborough, provided by the Littleborough, Milnrow and Wardle Joint Hospital Board, of which Board this Council is a constituent authority. The total cost to Wardle of this service during the year was £404 4s. 9d.

(iii) *Cost per Patient.*

The cost per patient of hospital treatment for infectious disease during the year ended 31st March, 1938, was £34 1s. 11d.

(iv) *Hospital Arrangements.*

No action has been necessary to shorten the period of stay of uncomplicated cases of scarlet fever, or to replace hospital treatment in suitable instances by nursing and supervision at home. The hospital accommodation available is utilised to the best advantage. It has not been necessary to adopt any new methods for the selection of individual cases for which admission to hospital is most imperative.

(v) *Scarlet Fever.*

Eight cases were notified. All cases were removed to hospital, five of which belonged to this district, the other three cases being notified from Birch Hill.

(vi) *Diphtheria.*

Twenty-four cases were notified. All cases were removed to hospital, eleven of which belonged to this district, the other thirteen cases being notified from Birch Hill.

(vii) *Enteric Fever.*

One case was notified. This was removed to Hospital.

(viii) *Tuberculosis.*

Two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and two cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

(ix) *Puerperal Fever.*

One case was removed to hospital.

* (x) *Puerperal Pyrexia.*

Five cases were notified ; the notifications of all these cases were received from Birch Hill.

(xi) *Erysipelas.*

Four cases notified.

(xii) *Generally.*

There has been no prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year 1938.

(xiii) *Diphtheria Antitoxin.*

Supplies of diphtheria antitoxin are available at my Surgery at Smallbridge.

(xiv) *Anti-Meningococcus Serum.*

This serum can be obtained if necessary.

(xv) *Other Vaccines and Sera.*

Any other vaccines or sera are supplied free to medical practitioners if applied for.

(xvi) *Streptococcal Infection.*

Very few cases of streptococcal infection occurred during the year.

(xvii) *Influenza.*

No epidemic of influenza occurred during the year.

(xviii) *Pneumonia, etc.*

Very few cases of pneumonia occurred and no cases of malaria and dysentery.

(xix) *Other Diseases.*

No other diseases have received special attention.

(xx) *Discovery and Action.*

School intimations of disease are investigated by me.

(xxi) *Pathological, etc. Examinations.*

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are examined at Broadfield Laboratory, Rochdale, the number of specimens examined during the year being :

(a)	Diphtheria	...	...	21
(b)	Scarlet Fever	...	...	Nil
(c)	Enteric Fever	...	...	Nil
(d)	Miscellaneous...	...	...	Nil

(xxii) No reports were necessary during the year under Article 17 (7) of the Sanitary Officers' (outside London) Regulations, 1935.

(xxiii) *Immunisation—Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.*

No action has been taken to provide artificial immunisation against either Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever.

(xxiv) *Disinfection.*

The number of houses disinfected after infectious disease during the year was 18, the disinfectant used being sulphur. It is the practice to disinfect houses after cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis but not after Measles. Clothing and bedding, etc. is disinfected in individual cases with sulphur.

(xxv) *Disinfestation.*

No disinfestation action has been necessary during the year.

(xxvi) *Cancer.*

Very few cases of cancer occurred during the year. The present facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer are adequate and the cases are sent to the Christie Hospital, Manchester.

(xxvii) *Prevention of Blindness.*

No action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

(xxviii) *Maternity and Child Welfare.*

This work is carried out by the Lancashire County Council.

(xxix) *Tables.*

Your attention is directed to the following tables at the end of the report :

Table I	...	Notifiable Diseases
„ II	...	Tuberculosis
„ III	...	Vital Statistics
„ IV	...	Notifications received
„ V	...	Acts adopted by the Council

The only form of sickness requiring special comment which occurred during the year was Diphtheria. The source of infection was traced to a carrier who had shown no symptoms of the disease. This was found through taking throat and nose swabs of all possible contacts.

I am chiefly indebted, for the information regarding unnotifiable diseases, to the returns of sickness in schools supplied to me by the Schools Attendance Officer.

I should like to express my appreciation of the efficient assistance given to me by Mr. Stewart and Mr. Harvey.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

DONALD G. MacGILL,

M.O.H.

July, 1939.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
WARDLE, Rochdale.

1st January, 1939.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Wardle Urban District Council,*

Gentlemen,

I beg to present, as Sanitary Inspector, my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

I. General Survey.

(i) *Sewage and Sewage Disposal.*

The samples taken during the year by the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee have all been classified "Satisfactory." For the second year no alumnoferric has been used as a precipitant. No works beyond ordinary maintenance repairs have been carried out, with the exception of the provision of a valve for emptying the detritus chamber. Sludge disposal will cause consideration in the future as the farmers are no longer taking this for agricultural purposes.

(ii) *Infectious Diseases.*

During the year sixteen cases of Infectious Disease were notified to me. Eleven cases were Diphtheria and five cases of Scarlet Fever. Of the Diphtheria cases six occurred in two houses. In every case the patient was removed to the Isolation Hospital and the house disinfected. Head teachers and employees were notified regarding contacts.

(iii) *House Refuse.*

The collection of house refuse is weekly, ashbins continue to increase in number as new houses are built, or conversions carried out. The system of controlled tipping continues to prove a satisfactory method of disposal.

(iv) *Housing.*

All houses under demolition orders have been demolished.

(v) *Overcrowding.*

A further survey of the district revealed a small amount of overcrowding, accounted for mainly by children attaining adult age. In other cases the overcrowding was of a temporary character.

(vi) *Cowsheds.*

The number of cowsheds has been considerably reduced and the number of cows is approximately two hundred and twenty. Generally the cowsheds are in a clean state. In most cases structural alterations are required before the sheds comply with the County Council regulations with respect to Accredited Milk Licences. They are inspected half-yearly and during the year 65 inspections were made. There are 20 dairy farms in the district.

(vii) *Slaughterhouses.*

The three licensed Slaughterhouses are inspected weekly and are conducted satisfactorily. It was necessary to warn a slaughterman regarding removal of carcase before inspection but there has no need to institute legal proceedings.

(viii) *School Milk.*

Samples of milk delivered to St. James' School, the Wardle Central School and St. John's School, have been taken on behalf of the Lancashire County Council. In each case the report has been satisfactory.

(ix) *Lodging House.*

The one Lodging House in the district has been visited monthly and continues to be kept in a clean condition. Lime-washing has been carried out as required. Adequate bye-laws were made in 1927.

(x) *Shops Act, 1934.*

Inspections of shops, under the Shops Act, 1934, have been made on behalf of the Lancashire County Council. The forms in connection therewith have been sent to the County Council as the authority for the administration of the Act.

(xi) *Bakehouses.*

The nine bakehouses have been inspected and no defect of a serious nature has been found. One bakehouse has closed though still open as a general shop.

(xii) *Meat Shops.*

The meat shops have maintained an excellent standard of cleanliness, and it has not been necessary to call the attention of the occupiers to any defects.

2. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(i) *Water Supply.*

The district water supply is obtained from the Rochdale Corporation and is satisfactory as to quality, quantity and constancy. Approximately 850 dwelling houses are supplied direct from the mains, there being no stand-pipe supplies in the district. There is no evidence of any possibility of contamination. Approximately 20 isolated cottages on the moors are supplied from wells and springs. No insufficiency was reported during the year.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

All sewage is treated at the Council's sewage disposal works at New Mill; the method of treatment being by precipitation tanks, continuous filters and humus tanks. The character of the drainage system is by piped sewers. No extensions or improvements with regard to the sewage system was carried out during the year. Wardle Fold is the only area in the district without proper drainage system, the reason being the awkward levels there. All new drains are inspected by me.

(iii) *Rivers and Streams.*

The Lancashire Rivers Board deals with the pollution of the rivers and streams in the district. No new works have been established during the year resulting in river pollution.

(iv) *Closet Accommodation Conversion.*

See Tables VI and VII. The Council are taking steps for abolishing privy middens and pail closets. All conversions are to fresh water system, and the Council contributes up to one half of the cost of conversion with a maximum contribution of £4 per water closet.

(v) *Public Cleansing.*

The Council carries out a weekly collection of dry house refuse, which is disposed of by the controlled tipping method, but no refuse is collected from earth closets and privies. No cesspools are cleansed by the Council. No motor vehicles are used; privy middens are emptied by night. The sanitary inspector supervises the scavenging.

(vi) *Smoke Abatement.*

The number of factory and works chimneys in the district is thirteen, and with a view to smoke abatement monthly

observations are carried out and the owners are notified when necessary. The total number of observations taken during the year amounted to 150; no legal proceedings were taken. Five minutes per hour is allowed for the emission of black smoke.

(vii) *Schools.*

The sanitary condition of the three schools in the district is good, and satisfactory water supply is provided by the Rochdale Corporation.

(viii) *Offensive Trades.*

No offensive trades are carried on in the district.

(ix) *Workshops and Workplaces.*

Nine workshops and workplaces are registered, all of which are in a clean condition.

(x) *Chief Sanitary Improvements.*

A notable sanitary improvement during the year was the erection of 38 houses for persons displaced from slum clearance houses and for occupiers of overcrowded houses.

(xi) *Chief Sanitary Requirements.*

More houses suitable for persons of the working class type are required and the streams need to be cleansed.

3. Housing.

(a) *Statistics.*

Housing statistics for the year are shewn in Appendix I.

(b) *Conditions.*

Considerable indication of dampness in houses is evident, caused chiefly by climatic and geological conditions. The overcrowding has occurred chiefly through children attaining adult age. There are 200 back-to-back houses in the area.

(c) *Sufficiency.*

A new housing scheme is under consideration in conjunction with proposals to demolish unfit houses and to abate overcrowding. There is some indication that the district is becoming popular as a residential area.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. A. STEWART, M. R. San. Inst.
Sanitary Inspector,

TABLE I.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
DURING THE YEAR 1938.

“NOTIFIABLE” DISEASES.	Total Cases Notified.												Total deaths	Hospital		
	Total Cases at all Ages	Age Periods—Years												Total cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of per- sons belonging to district	
		Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64				65 & Over
	(a)													(b)	(c)	(d)
Smallpox ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Scarlet Fever	8	....	....	....	1	....	6	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	8	....
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	24	....	....	....	....	1	14	4	1	3	1	....	....	....	24	....
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	1	....
Acute Primary Pneumonia } Acute Influenzal , }	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	1	....	....	....	5	....
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Acute Poliomyelitis ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Acute Polio-Encephalitis ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Encephalitis Lethargica ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Dysentery ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Erysipelas	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	2	....	3	....
Malaria { Contracted in this Country ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Abroad ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Any other diseases <i>notifiable</i> in district, <i>e.g.</i> :—																
Chicken-pox ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Measles, excluding German Measles ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Whooping Cough ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Any other disease ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Totals	41	—	—	—	1	1	20	5	1	8	2	1	2	—	41	—

5 cases of Scarlet Fever and 11 cases of Diphtheria belong to the district,
the rest of the cases were notified from Birch Hill.

TABLE II.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1—4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5—9	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....
10—14 „	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
15—19 „	....	1	....	1	....	1	....	....
20—24 „	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
25—34 „	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
35—44 „	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
45—54 „	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
55—64 „	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
65 and upwards....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Totals	— 2	— 2	— 2	— 2	1 1	1 1	— —	— —
	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	—

All cases were notified and in my opinion the notification of tuberculosis in this district is efficient. There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

TABLE III.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1938.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>					Males.	Females.
All causes	....	....	....	....	36	23
Influenza	....	...	...	....	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	....	....	....	....	2	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	....	....	....	....	1	—
Cancer ...	....	....	....	....	4	5
Diabetes	....	....	....	....	1	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c.	....	....	....	....	3	1
Heart Disease	....	....	....	....	10	5
Other Circulatory Diseases	....	....	....	....	4	2
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	3	2
Pneumonia, all forms	....	....	....	....	—	1
Eucephalitis Lethargica	....	....	....	....	1	—
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	....	....	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	....	....	....	....	2	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, &c.	—	....	....	....	—	1
Senility	....	....	....	....	1	1
Suicide	....	....	....	....	1	—
Other Violence	....	....	....	....	2	1
Other defined diseases	....	....	....	....	1	1
Deaths of	{	Total	....	....	1	1
Infants under		Legitimate	...	...	1	1
1 year of age		Illegitimate	...	...	—	—
Live Births	{	Total....	....	....	26	23
		Legitimate	....	....	23	22
		Illegitimate	....	....	3	1
Still Births	{	Total....	....	....	1	—
		Legitimate	....	...	1	—
		Illegitimate	...	...	—	—
Resident Population	....	....	4,305			
(Reg. Genl. Est.)						

TABLE IV.

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED

(apart from Tuberculosis)

Disease					No.	
					1937	1938
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	4	8
Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	6	24
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	3	1
Puerperal Fever...	...	...	....	....	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	....	5	5
Erysipelas	....	....	....	....	10	4
					—	—
Totals					29	42

TABLE V.

LISTS OF ACTS AND SECTIONS THEREOF
ADOPTED BY THE WARDLE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

1. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Part III)
Adopted 15th May, 1891.
2. Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.
Adopted 6th April, 1899.
3. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts II
and III (excepting S. 48) IV and V.
Operative from 5th October, 1911.
4. Private Street Works Act, 1892.
Operative from 19th October, 1914.
5. Notification of Births Act, 1907.
Operative from 13th October, 1914.
6. Public Health Act, 1925 (Parts II, III and IV).
Operative from 31st January, 1927.
7. Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923
Adopted 2nd August, 1934.
Observations as to their administration—Good.

TABLE VI
CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

	At 31st Dec., 1938	At 31st Dec., 1937
Privy Middens	31	31
Closets attached to these Middens	31	31
Pail Closets	106	107
Dry Ashpits (<i>excluding Middens</i>)	4	4
Fresh Water Closets	657	628
Waste Water Closets	30	31

TABLE VII
CLOSET CONVERSIONS.

		During Year 1938	During Five Years 1933-1937
No. of Privy Closets	To Fresh W.C.'s	0	6
	To Waste W.C.'s	0	0
	To Pails, W.C.'s	0	2
No. of Pail Closets	To Fresh W.C.'s	4	55
	To Waste W.C.'s	0	0
No. of Waste W.C.'s to Fresh W.C.'s	....	1	12
No. of Houses at which Movable Ashbins have been substituted for fixed recep- tacles	....	5	60

TABLE VIII.
INSPECTIONS, 1938.

	Inspections	Defects	Remedied	Remarks
Factories and Workshops	79	6	6	....
Housing	103	132	84	 Houses recomm- ended for clearance under Housing Act, 1936.
Slaughterhouses	63	3	3	....
Lodging houses	23	0	0	....
Shops Act, 1934 (inc. Bakehouses)	115	0	0	....
Cowsheds and Dairies	65	3	3	....
Total	448	144	96	

APPENDIX.

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1938.

No. of new houses erected during the year 1938 :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	43
(i) By the Local Authority	38
(ii) By other bodies or persons	5
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(i) By the Local Authority	38
(ii) By other bodies or persons	0

1. *Unfit Dwelling-houses—*

Inspection—(1) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	103
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925	103
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habita- tion	15
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	88

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices—*

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in con- sequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	88
---	----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers—*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the
Housing Act, 1936—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	88
--	----

(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	88
(2) No. of defects remedied by owners	88

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

4. *Housing Act 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding—*

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	9
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	9
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	46½
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	14

